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SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" May I know whether the Government are considering the question, apart from representations, of extending medical and educational concessions to village officers who are worse off than even the N.G.Os.? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" There is nothing under consideration now, Sir."

Educational concessions to Non-Gazetted Officers

* 1698 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether the educational concessions for the children of Non-Gazetted Officers are granted in cases where one of the parents is employed under the Central Government or a pensioner of the Central Government?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The answer is in the negative in case one of the parents is employed under the Central Government and in the affirmative if one of the parents is a pensioner of the Central Government."

Takkavi loans

* 1699 *Q.*—SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state the total amount of Takkavi loans granted in Ponnani taluk in the year 1954?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" Rs. 41,850."

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" Sir, as the Agricultural Demonstrator's office is situated only in the headquarters of subtaluks, certain firkas are not benefited by the grant of the Takkavi loans and many are not at all getting anything and Nattika firka is one such. In view of this, will the Government appoint Agricultural Demonstrators in every firka which has a very large population and also will the Government liberalize the loans to agriculturists? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" I thought the sum of Rs. 41,850 was a handsome amount. As for the other thing, if the hon. Member makes a specific suggestion, I shall have it examined."

* 1700 *Q.*—MR. SPEAKER :—" The Hon. Member Sri Rangasami Naidu wants the question to be taken up tomorrow. This will be taken up tomorrow."

Supply of zinc sheets for Avadi Congress

* 1701 *Q.*—SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether a large number of zinc sheets were supplied by the Government to the organisers of the Congress session at Avadi in January 1955;

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(b) if so, how the sheets were disposed of after the Session was over; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the sheets were sold privately to a single individual; without calling for tenders for the purchase and why?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—"(a) to (c) The hon. Member is perhaps under the impression that the Government supplied the G.C. and G.P. sheets to the organizers of the 60th session of the Indian National Congress at Avadi from their stocks and also disposed them of after the session was over. This is not so. The convenor of the Reception Committee of the Indian National Congress Session was permitted by the Iron and Steel Controller, Calcutta, to purchase for use at the session of a large number of sheets from the producers against quota certificates issued by the Controller. The Controller also authorized the convenor to dispose of the sheets against permits issued by the State Controller (the Director of Industries and Commerce) till 15th February 1955 at prices not exceeding column III rates of the Price Circular. The sheets left over with the convener uncovered by the permits issued up to 15th February 1955 were allowed by the Controller to be sold to any person subject to the maximum prices mentioned above. The question whether the sheets should be sold after inviting tenders or individually to a number of persons is one for the convenor to decide and Government are not concerned."

* 1702 Q.—SRI A. RATNAM :—" Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) the quantity of galvanised corrugated sheets allotted for the recent Congress session at Avadi;

(b) the rate charged for these sheets by the Government of India and other conditions imposed by them; and

(c) whether it was a condition that they should be handed over to the Madras State Government after the session was over?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) 1,350 tons.

" (b) & (c) The rate charged was Rs. 665 per ton. The condition imposed was that the entire quantity should be returned to the Madras State authorities on the expiry of the session for distribution to normal consumers. But ultimately to obviate difficulties in looking after large stocks or in transporting them, the convenor of the Reception Committee of he Indian National Congress was registered by the Iron and Steel Controller, Calcutta, as a stock-holder at Avadi, within the meaning of the Iron and Steel (Control of Production and Distribution) Order, 1941, subject to the following conditions :—

(i) The convenor will hold in his stock 1,350 tons G.C. sheets released from the 60th session of the Indian National